GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:408
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION BY FOREIGN COMPANIES
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;BHASKAR RAO PATIL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign companies are showing increasing interest in oil and gas exploration activities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the financial position of all the foreign companies showing interest in oil and gas exploration activities in India;

(d) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gashas taken into confidence the Ministry of Disinvestment also in the process of assessing the financial position of the foreign companies; and

(e) if so, the likely level of bids by the foreign companies under the new exploration licensing policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (e):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.408 BY SAI SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY AND BHASKARRAO PATIL TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST AUGUST, 2003 REGARDING OIL GAS EXPLORATION BY FOREIGN COMPANIES.

(a) & (b):- Yes, Sir. In the first three rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), sixteen foreign companies had bid. The names of these companies are given in Annexure.

(c) Under NELP, the Notice Inviting Offers (NIO) and bid evaluation criteria lay down a transparent quantitative criteria for assessing the financial capability of all the bidding companies, including foreign companies.

(d) The financial capabilities of the bidder under NELP are assessed by an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECS) headed by the Secretary Petroleum & Natural Gas and comprisingconcerned Secretaries from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law as members. Ministry of Disinvestment is not concerned in this process.

(e) The exact response from the companies including from foreign companies for the fourth round of NELP (NELP-IV) would be known after the bid closing date i.e. the 30th September, 2003.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 408 BY SAR SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY AND BHASKARRAO PATIL TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST AUGUST, 2003 REGARDING OIL GAS EXPLORATION BY FOREIGN COMPANIES

Names of the foreign companies who had bid in the three rounds of NELP:-

S.No. Names of the bidding foreign companies

1. Energy Equity India Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Energy Equity Resources Ltd., Australia.

2. South Asia Oil and Gas Plc., Australia.

3. Niko Resources Ltd., Canada.

4. Geo Global Resources Inc., Canada.

5. Geo Petrol International, France.

6. Petronas L.L.C., a subsidiary of Petronas, Malaysia.

7 Petrom S.A., Romania.

8. OAO Gazprom, Russia.

9. Cairn Energy Discovery Ltd., Cairn Energy Hydrocarbons Ltd., Cairn Energy India Pty., Ltd., Cairn Energy Petroleum India Ltd., and Cairn Energy Search Ltd.-subsidiaries of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.
10. Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc., a subsidiary of Hardy Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.
11. Heramec Ltd., a subsidiary of Heritage Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.
12. Premier Oil (Eastern India), B.V., a subsidiary of Premier Oil Plc., U.K.
13. Enron Oil and Gas (India) Ltd., a subsidiary of Enron Corporation, USA.
14. Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
15. Mosbacher India L.L.C., a subsidiary of Mosbacher Energy Company, USA
16. RSM Production Corporation, USA.